

Pritom Saha Akash

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <i>Ph.D. in Computer Science [Expected Graduation -May 2025]</i>	IL, USA Aug. 2020 – Present
Institute of Information Technology, University of Dhaka <i>M.S. in Software Engineering</i>	Dhaka, Bangladesh Jan. 2018 – June 2019
Institute of Information Technology, University of Dhaka <i>B.S. in Software Engineering</i>	Dhaka, Bangladesh Jan. 2014 – Dec. 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Natural Language Processing (i.e., understanding and using LLMs), **Text Mining** and **Recommender Systems**.

EXPERIENCE

Phd Student Researcher <i>Co-op of CS@UIUC and eBay Inc.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Recommender System	Aug. 2022 – May 2023, Aug. 2023 – Present IL, USA
Graduate Teaching Assistant <i>Dept. of CS, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courses: STAT 107- Data Science Discovery, CS 598: Understanding and Using LLMs	Aug. 2023 – Present IL, USA
Research Scientist Intern - Artificial Intelligence <i>Almaden Lab, IBM Research</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic: Conversational AI• Manager: <u>Lucian Popa</u>	May 2023 – Aug. 2023 San Jose, CA, USA
Graduate Research Assistant <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborations: IBM- Aug.'20 – Dec'21 (Topic: NextGen Search), Aug.'22 – May'23 (Topic: AIOps)• Advisor: <u>Prof. Kevin C. Chang</u>	Aug. 2020 – May 2023 IL, USA
Software Engineer <i>Samsung R&D Institute Bangladesh</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tizen Wearable Application Development Team in Mobile Application Group 2 (MAG2)• Developing Samsung wearable applications in Tizen platform	Nov. 2019 – Aug. 2020 Dhaka, Bangladesh
Short Course Instructor <i>Institute of Information Technology, University of Dhaka</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked as an instructor in short courses of Web Programming, Web design and Office application	Jan. 2018 – Sep. 2019 Dhaka, Bangladesh
Software Engineer Intern <i>Datasoft System Bangladesh Limited</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involved in developing two in-house automation projects	Jan. 2017 – June 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh

PUBLICATIONS

1. Lam Do, **Pritom Saha Akash**, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang. Unsupervised Open-domain Keyphrase Generation. The 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL). 2023.
2. **Pritom Saha Akash**, Jie Huang, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang. Coordinated Topic Modeling. The 2022 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP). 2022
3. **Pritom Saha Akash**, Jie Huang, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang, Yunyao Li, Lucian Popa, ChengXiang Zhai. Domain Representative Keywords Selection: A Probabilistic Approach. *Findings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Findings of ACL)*. 2022.
4. Md. Eusha Kadir, **Pritom Saha Akash**, Sadia Sharmin, Amin Ahsan Ali, and Mohammad Shoyaib. A Proximity Weighted Evidential k Nearest Neighbor Classifier for Imbalanced Data. *In Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, pp. 71-83. Springer, Cham, 2020.*
5. Md. Eusha Kadir*, **Pritom Saha Akash***, Sadia Sharmin, Amin Ahsan Ali, and Mohammad Shoyaib. Can a Simple Approach Identify Complex Nurse Care Activity? *In Adjunct Proceedings of the 2019 ACM International Joint Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing and the 2019 International Symposium on Wearable Computers (UbiComp/ISWC '19 Adjunct)* [*Equal Contribution]
6. **Pritom Saha Akash**, Md. Eusha Kadir, Amin Ahsan Ali and Mohammad Shoyaib. Inter-node Hellinger distance based Decision Tree, *In Proceedings of the Twenty-Eighth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, IJCAI-19.*
7. **Pritom Saha Akash**, Md. Eusha Kadir, Amin Ahsan Ali, Md. Nurul Ahad Tawhid and Mohammad Shoyaib. Introducing Confidence as a Weight in Random Forest. *2019 International Conference on Robotics, Electrical and Signal Processing Techniques (ICREST)*. [Best Presenter Award]
8. **Pritom Saha Akash**, Ali Zafar Sadiq and Ahmedul Kabir. An Approach of Extracting God Class Exploiting Both Structural and Semantic Similarity. *ENASE 2019 : 14th International Conference on Evaluation of Novel Approaches to Software Engineering.*
9. Jeba, Tahmim, Tarek Mahmud, **Pritom Saha Akash**, and Nadia Nahar. God Class Refactoring Recommendation and Extraction Using Context based Grouping.
10. Md. Eusha Kadir, **Pritom Saha Akash**, Amin Ahsan Ali, Mohammad Shoyaib and Zerina Begum. Evidential SVM for binary classification. *ICASERT-2019: 1st International Conference on Advances in Science, Engineering and Robotics Technology.*
11. Ali Zafar Sadiq, Ahmedul Kabir, **Pritom Saha Akash** and Md. Jubair Ibna Mostafa. Analyzing Corrective Maintenance using Change Coupled Clusters at Fix-inducing Changes. *2019 International Conference on Electrical, Computer and Communication Engineering (ECCE)*.

PREPRINTS AND UNDER REVIEW

1. Qihao Wang*, **Pritom Saha Akash***, Varvara Kollia, Biwei Jiang, Vadim Von Brzeski, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang. On Category Recommendation: A Cascading Approach. [On Review, KDD'24]
2. **Pritom Saha Akash***, Kashob Kumar Roy*, Lucian Popa, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang. Long-form Question Answering: An Iterative Planning-Retrieval-Generation Approach. [On Review, ACL ARR]
3. **Pritom Saha Akash***, Trisha Das*, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang. TopicAdapt- An Inter-Corpora Topics Adaptation Approach. arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.04978 (2023).
4. **Pritom Saha Akash**, Jie Huang, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang. Let the Pretrained Language Models “Imagine” for Short Texts Topic Modeling. arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.15420 (2023) [On Review, ACL 2024]
5. Ziyi Chen, Akshay Sivaraman, **Pritom Saha Akash**, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang. Toward Open Domain Aspect-based Corpus Summarization.
6. **Pritom Saha Akash**, Kevin Chen-Chuan Chang. Extract Class Refactoring Recommendations using Variational Graph Auto-Encoders. arXiv preprint arXiv:2203.08787 (2022)
7. **Pritom Saha Akash**, Wei-Cheng Lai, and Po-Wen Lin. Online Aggregation based Approximate Query Processing: A Literature Survey. arXiv preprint arXiv:2204.07125 (2021).

TEACHING

Co-Instructor of CS 598: Understanding and Using Large Language Models, Spring 2024, UIUC

MASTER'S THESIS

- **Pritom Saha Akash**, An Evidential Inter-node Hellinger Distance based Tree Classifier, *Institute of Information Technology, University of Dhaka, 2019.*

AWARDS & GRANTS

1. IIT Academic Excellence Gold Medal Award, 2019
2. 2019 IEEE Computer Society Bangladesh Chapter's Award for Academic & Research Excellence in recognition of Outstanding Research Accomplishments
3. Winner in a Human activity recognition challenge called *NURSE CARE ACTIVITY RECOGNITION CHALLENGE* as a part of HASCA workshop at UbiComp 2019
4. Awarded for *IJCAI-AIJ 2019 TRAVEL and ACCESSIBILITY GRANT*
5. Awarded as the best presenter in an international conference, ICREST 2019
6. Awarded as an ICT fellow (2018-19) under ICT Division Bangladesh

SENIOR PROJECT

- Context Sensitive Bengali Spell Checker** Jul. 2017 - Nov. 2017
- A Bengali Spell Checker for detecting and recommending corrections of typographic and contextual errors
 - Developed using Python 3.5 and Django 1.11.2

UNDERGRADUATE PROJECTS

- Context Sensitive Bengali Spell Checker** Jul. 2017 - Nov. 2017
- A Bengali Spell Checker for detecting and recommending corrections of typographic and contextual errors
 - Developed using Python 3.5 and Django 1.11.2
- Graduate Verification System** Aug. 2017 - Oct. 2017
- A web-based system for verification of a graduate
 - Developed using PHP, Laravel and MySQL
- Budget Planning System** Sept. 2016 - Nov. 2016
- A web-based system for planning yearly budget of IIT, University of Dhaka
 - Developed using PHP and MySQL
- Home Budget Manager** Feb. 2015 - May 2015
- An Android application to set budget and track your earnings-expenses
 - Developed using Java, Android Studio 1.0 and SQLite

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Reviewer: EMNLP'23, ACL'23

Co-Reviewer: KDD'21,22,23,24; SIGIR'21,22,23,24; CIKIM'21; ICDM'21; WSDM'21

Technical Skills

Programming: Python, Java, Matlab, C/C++, MySQL, JavaScript, R

Software and Tools: PyTorch, scikit-learn, Git, LaTeX, IntelliJ, Eclipse, Android Studio